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Canadian Sentenced for Spying

Reuter

LONDON, Dec. 7—A Canadian professor was sentenced to 10 years in prison today for spying on behalf of the Soviet Union after he abandoned his story about being a double agent and pleaded guilty to passing NATO secrets to Moscow.

Hugh Hambleton, 60, who taught economics at Laval University in Quebec City, betrayed no emotion when the judge imposed the sentence in London.

His trial was cut short today when he changed his plea from not guilty to guilty on a charge that he slipped top-secret documents to his Kremlin paymasters while working for NATO in Paris between 1956 and 1961.

The guilty plea came as no surprise after a dramatic admission from the witness box under cross-ex-

amination yesterday that he had spied for the Soviet Union.

Prosecuting Attorney General Sir Michael Havers today shattered Hambleton's defense that he posed as a Soviet agent only to infiltrate the Soviet KGB intelligence and that he was really a double agent working for French and Canadian intelligence. The prosecutor produced statements from both the Canadian and French intelligence services saying Hambleton had never been one of their agents.

After consulting his lawyer, Hambleton changed his plea.

The judge, Justice David Croom-Johnson, described his activities as "a very grave offense."

He was alleged to have photographed thousands of NATO documents for the Kremlin, including

more than 80 classified "Cosmic"—the highest NATO secrecy category.

The professor, who has dual Canadian and British citizenship, was questioned by Canadian authorities in 1979 after a KGB colonel defected in the United States and named him as a Soviet agent.

However, he was never charged in Canada. The judge said today Canada gave him immunity in return for information. But the immunity did not extend to Britain, and he was arrested when he flew to London five months ago on a visit.

Hambleton was the second Soviet spy jailed in Britain in recent weeks.

Last month Geoffrey Prime, who spied for Moscow while working at Britain's top-secret communications center at Cheltenham, was sent to prison for 35 years.